

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/2/56

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES [REDACTED]

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b7ESUBJECT: SOVIET EXCHANGE GROUPS
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For the information of the Bureau and interested Offices, Mr. Y. FRANK FREEMAN, Vice President in Charge of Production for Paramount Pictures, Inc., 5451 Marathon Ave., LA, and an SAC contact of this Office, advised on 5/1/56, that CECIL B. DE MILLE, prominent motion picture director who is associated with Paramount Pictures, Inc., had received a letter from Mr. R. DEAN GOODWIN, secretary of the Council on Missionary Cooperation, American Baptist Conference, 152 Madison Ave., New York City, requesting that a delegation of 5 Baptist Ministers from Soviet Russia who will be visiting the U.S. from 5/18/56 thru 6/18/56, be afforded a visit to the Paramount Studios. The letter explained that these Soviet Baptist Ministers were touring the U.S. as guests of the National Baptist Organization and would be in Los Angeles on 6/10&11/56. According to FREEMAN, Mr. GOODWIN's letter requested that any possible studio visit be scheduled for the morning of 6/11/56, and mentioned that the group would be particularly interested in meeting Director DE MILLE and discussing some aspects of his motion picture, "The Ten Commandments", with him.

Mr. FREEMAN explained that during 1955 he had refused a request to afford a group of touring Soviet newspaper men a visit to a Hollywood Motion Picture Studio and wanted to be most circumspect before granting any Soviet group a visit to his Company's premises. As the temper of this Government, and Hollywood particularly, toward the Soviet Union may change at any time, Mr. FREEMAN felt it advisable to contact the State Department in Washington, D.C., to establish the authenticity of these Soviet Ministers and request from that agency a letter or telegram establishing the approval of their U.S. visit. He indicated that he intends to confer telephonically with a representative of the State Department in Washington, D.C. on this matter, on 5/2/56.

- ② - Bureau
1 - New York
1 - Washington Field
1 - San Francisco
1 - Los Angeles (80-289) (FREEMAN)
1 - Los Angeles

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Let J. P. Cleveland
cc Mr. Hoover
5/4/56
MAY 7 1956
APPROVED